United Nations

Report of the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

General Assembly
Official Records
Twenty-first special session
Supplement No. 1 (A/S-21/2)

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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. By its resolution 52/188 of 18 December 1997, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session for a duration of three days from 30 June to 2 July 1999 in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.[1] It also decided that the Commission on Population and Development should serve as the preparatory body for the final preparations for the special session.

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Commission on Population and Development acted as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters from 24 March to 1 April 1999. The preparatory committee held 6 meetings (1st to 6th) and a number of informal working group meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Chairman of the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, Mr. Robert Louis Cliquet (Belgium).

B. Attendance

4. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 52/188, the Commission acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly was open-ended to allow the full participation of all States.

5. The following States were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

6. The observer for Palestine attended the session.

7. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (Population Division), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee to the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Community, International Organization for Migration, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference.

10. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the session.

C. Election of officers

11. At the 1st meeting, on 24 March 1999, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:

Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Chairmen:

Ms. Elza Berquó (Brazil)
Mr. Ross Hynes (Canada)
Ms. Armi Heinonen (Finland)
Mr. Jacob Botwe Wilmot (Ghana)
Ms. M. Patricia Durrant (Jamaica)
Mr. Ryuichiro Yamazaki (Japan)
Mr. Alexandru Miculescu (Romania)
Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:

Ms. Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

D. Agenda

12. At its 1st meeting, on 24 March 1999, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.9/1999/PC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly.
4. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly.

E. Documentation

13. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.9/1999/PC/1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/2);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Forum for the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at The Hague from 8 to 12 February 1999 (E/CN.9/1999/PC/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/4);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work for the session (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.1);

(f) Draft decision submitted by the Chairman on arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.2);

(g) Draft report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.3);

(h) Draft working paper submitted by the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.1 and Rev.1 and 2);

(i) Note by the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the twenty-first special session of the Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.2);

(j) Information note by the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly, on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the twenty-first special session of the Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.3).

Chapter III
Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly

14. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly", at its 1st to 6th meetings, on 24 to 26 March and 1 April 1999. The preparatory committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Forum for the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at The Hague from 8 to 12 February 1999 (E/CN.9/1999/PC/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/4);

(d) Draft working paper submitted by the Chairman on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.1 and Rev.1 and 2);

(e) Note by the Chairman on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.2);

(f) Note by the Chairman on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.3).

15. At the 1st meeting, on 24 March, the following introductory statements were made: the Director of the Population Division introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/2); the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund introduced the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Forum for the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/3) and read out a statement by the President of The Hague Forum, Mr. Nicolaas Biegman (Netherlands); and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund introduced the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/4).

16. At the same meeting, the Chairman introduced a draft working paper submitted by him on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.1 and Rev.1 and 2), which the preparatory committee agreed to use as the basis for its negotiations.

17. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are

members of the European Union and its associated States), Japan, China, Kazakhstan, India, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

18. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 March, the Chairman of the Commission for Social Development, Mr. Aurelio Fernández (Spain), made a statement.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, Argentina, Guatemala, Zambia, the Holy See, Croatia and Colombia. The representative of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly made statements: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP); Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics; World Population Foundation; and Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC).

20. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 March, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Malaysia, Madagascar, France, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire and Thailand. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also made a statement.

21. At the 4th meeting, on 25 March, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Romania, Peru, Uruguay, Panama, Pakistan, Benin, Ethiopia, Guinea and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The observer for Palestine also made a statement. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly made statements: International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Centre for Development and Population Activities; AVSC International (Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception); Environmental Caucus; and World Information Transfer.

22. At the 5th meeting, on 26 March, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Patricia Flor (Germany), made a statement.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Senegal, El Salvador, Fiji (on behalf of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Jamaica, Uganda, Ghana, Panama (in her capacity as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), Hungary, Turkey, Nepal, Bolivia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Jordan, Nigeria and Belize. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund made a statement.

Action taken by the preparatory committee

A. Arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

24. At the 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Chairman introduced a draft decision (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.2) entitled "Arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly", and orally revised it on the basis of informal consultations.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly adopted draft decision E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.2, as orally revised (see chap. V, sect. B, decision 1999/PC/1).

B. Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

26. At the 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Chairman introduced his note (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.2) containing recommendations for adoption by the special session of the General Assembly on a draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the twenty-first special session of the Assembly, and orally revised the text on the basis of informal consultations.

27. At the same meeting, the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly decided to transmit the recommendations contained in document E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.2, as orally revised, to the special session of the Assembly for adoption (see chap. V, sect. A, draft decisions I and II).

C. Establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

28. At the 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly introduced his information note (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.3) regarding the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the twenty-first special session of the Assembly, and orally revised the text, on the basis of informal consultations, as follows:

(a) In the second sentence of paragraph 6, the words "Monday, 19 April 1999" were replaced with the words "Wednesday, 19 May 1999";

(b) In paragraph 14, the words "and paragraph 14 of E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.2" were inserted after the words "15 December 1998", and the words "Tonga and Tuvalu" were replaced by the words "Tonga, Tuvalu and associate members of the regional commissions".

29. At the same meeting, the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly took note of the information note contained in document E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.3, as orally revised.

D. Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

30. At its 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly had before it a revised working paper on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/CRP.1/Rev.1), submitted by the Chairman, which had been the basis for negotiations in working group meetings. The Chairman informed the preparatory committee that the negotiations on the document had not been completed.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, the Sudan, Morocco, the Philippines, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Canada, Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Guyana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Argentina and Senegal.

32. Also at its 6th meeting, the preparatory committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize the preparatory committee to hold a resumed session in order to complete its work (see chap. V, sect. B, decision 1999/PC/2), and also authorized its Bureau to examine the possible dates for holding such a session, taking into account all relevant factors and within existing resources, and to communicate the dates to the members of the preparatory committee.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly

33. At its 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly had before it the draft report of its session (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.3).

34. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and authorized the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur to finalize it.

Chapter V

Recommendations of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-first special session, and decisions adopted by the preparatory committee

A. Decisions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session

35. The Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly recommends to the Assembly at its twenty-first special session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Provisional agenda of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly adopts the following provisional agenda for its twenty-first special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Uruguay.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
9. Adoption of the final document.

Draft decision II

Organizational arrangements for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

2. The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-first special session, to be held at Headquarters from 30 June to 2 July 1999:

A. President

3. The twenty-first special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly.

B. Vice-Presidents

4. The Vice-Presidents of the twenty-first special session should be the same as those of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly.

C. Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

5. The General Assembly at its twenty-first special session should establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-first Special Session. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairman and nine Vice-Chairmen. The Bureau of the preparatory committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

D. Credentials Committee

6. The Credentials Committee of the twenty-first special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly.

E. General Committee

7. The General Committee of the twenty-first special session should consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairmen of the six Main Committees of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

F. Rules of procedure

8. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the twenty-first special session.

G. Level of representation

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/183 of 15 December 1998, Member States are to be represented at the special session at the highest possible level of participation.

H. Debate in plenary

10. Statements in the debate in plenary should not exceed seven minutes. For non-governmental organizations, the time limit should not exceed five minutes.

11. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary should be established by a drawing of lots. Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes and heads of Government should be given precedence in the establishment of the list of speakers and in the speaking order and should have equal standing as regards the list of speakers. They should be followed by Deputy Prime Ministers/Ministers, Ministers, Vice-Ministers/Chairmen of Delegation and Chairmen of Delegation.

I. Allocation of items

12. While all items of the draft provisional agenda would remain allocated to the plenary, it is recommended that item 8 of the draft provisional agenda also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

J. Participation of speakers other than Member States

13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/183, Cook Islands, the Holy See, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Switzerland, Tonga and Tuvalu may participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers.

14. Associate members of the regional commissions should be allowed to participate in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

15. Observers may make statements in the debate in the plenary.

16. Given availability of time and bearing in mind General Assembly decision 51/467 of 18 April 1997, a limited number of non-governmental organizations may also make statements in the debate in the plenary, subject to the approval of the special session. The President of the Assembly is requested to ensure such participation on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the diversity of non-governmental organizations.

17. Representatives of the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

18. Representatives of non-governmental organizations may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

K. Schedule of plenary meetings

19. Nine plenary meetings will be held over the three-day period, with three meetings per day according to the following schedule: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole will run parallel to the plenary meetings, if necessary.

B. Decisions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

36. The Commission for Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly adopted the following decisions:

Decision 1999/PC/1

Arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

At its 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Commission on Population and Development acting at its thirty-second session as preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] noting that pursuant to Assembly resolutions 52/188 of 18 December 1997, and 53/183 of 15 December 1998, the President of the Assembly was invited, in consultation with Member States to propose appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations in the special session:

(a) Decided to invite to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly:

(i) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(ii) Non-governmental organizations already accredited to the International Conference on Population and Development and/or the Preparatory Committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Also decided that the accreditation of other interested non-governmental organizations including those that have applied for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be examined by a committee composed of the Bureau of the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly and the Secretariat by 14 May 1999, which will make appropriate recommendations to the preparatory committee at its resumed session for a decision, provided that requests for accreditation are accompanied by information on the organization's competence and relevance to the subject of the special session and include the following information to be submitted by 30 April 1999:

(i) The purpose of the organization;

(ii) Information identifying the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the special session, and indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(iii) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels;

(iv) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(v) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

(vi) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(vii) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization.

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[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Decision 1999/PC/2

Resumed session of the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

At its 6th meeting, on 1 April 1999, the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly decided to recommend to the Assembly at its fifty-third session that it authorize the preparatory committee to hold a resumed session in order to complete its work.

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